

The Family Building Network presents

What to Consider When Creating a Family Through Donor and/or Surrogacy

Thursday, January 7, 2010 6:30-9:00 pm

PATRICIA MENDELL, LCSW is a psychotherapist in private practice. She is co-author of the American Fertility Association 2009 fact sheet, **Talking to Children about Ovum Donation** and facilitator of their Ovum Donor Seminars. In addition, Patricia has written and spoken extensively on such topics as fertility, pregnancy loss, disclosure, family, and parenting issues. As a therapist and fertility survivor, Patricia is well aware of the impact decision making choices have on people's lives. She believes that with the right support system and practical educational tools, one can feel confident in tackling any of life's challenges.

Patricia understands that preparing to parent a child conceived through surrogacy, sperm, egg, or embryo donation involves many decisions. Often, the complexity of these choices can be overlooked by determined parents-to-be who may be both emotionally and physically exhausted from their fertility treatments and fearful that their biological clocks may prevent them from achieving a successful pregnancy. For same sex couples, the road to parenthood may involve many decisions including concerns about genetic inequities with the child. Frequently, in the excitement to become parents the significance of these choices and their impact on the family can get overlooked. In her work with hundreds of families, Patricia has successfully worked with individuals, guiding and educating them on their journey to parenthood and as parents.

This workshop will discuss:

- **When to consider moving on to donor and surrogacy**
- **Psychologically knowing whether this option is right for you**
- **What to consider when selecting an IVF donor egg program**
- **Anonymous versus known egg donors; points to ponder**
- **Anonymous versus known sperm donors; including identity-release donors**
- **Selecting sperm banks, egg donor and surrogacy agencies: the pros and cons**

Date & Time: Thursday, January 7, 2010 from 6:30-9:00 pm
Cost: \$30 per person
Location: 902 Broadway
(between 20th-21st Streets next to 920 Broadway)
13th Floor, NY, NY 10010
Contact: Patricia Mendell, LCSW, 718-230-9383
www.patriciamendell.com (space is limited)